



FACT SHEET ON DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMITTEES WITH \$10,000 DONORS

The City's Election Campaign Control Ordinance [ECCO] includes a variety of regulations applicable to committees participating in City elections. This fact sheet is designed to offer guidance to primarily formed recipient committees that have accepted contributions of \$10,000 or more from one or more donors. This fact sheet should not be considered a substitute for the actual language contained within San Diego Municipal Code sections 27.2901 through 27. 2991.

- ❖ Under state law, primarily formed committees must identify on their advertisements the names of the top two donors of \$50,000 or more.
- ❖ The City of San Diego has imposed a lower monetary threshold. When a City of San Diego primarily formed recipient committee places a campaign advertisement supporting or opposing a City candidate or ballot measure, that advertisement must include the names of the top two donors of \$10,000 or more.

Committees Subject to \$10,000 Donor Rule

- ❖ The City's \$10,000 donor rules apply to the following types of committees:
 - ✓ Committees primarily formed to support or oppose one or more City candidates appearing on the same ballot
 - ✓ Committees primarily formed to support or oppose one or more City ballot measures appearing on the same ballot
- ❖ These rules do not apply to general purpose recipient committees.
- ❖ These committees must identify the names of their top two donors on their campaign advertisements (e.g., mailings, door hangers, yard signs, billboards), as explained below.

Advertising Disclosures

- ❖ If the committee has more than two donors of \$10,000 or more, it is only required to disclose the highest and second highest in that order.
- ❖ If the committee has two or more disclosable donors that contributed identical amounts, the order of disclosure shall be made beginning with the most recent contributor of that amount.
- ❖ For most advertisements, the disclosure must be in a typeface that is easily legible, contrasts with the background, and is no less than 12 points in size. If the advertisement is on a yard sign, billboard, or any other large form of advertising (30 square feet or larger), the disclosure's typeface must have a height no less than five percent of the height of the advertisement.

- ❖ If a disclosable contributor is a recipient committee, the word “committee” must be included. For example, if the contributor was the Coolidge Club, a general purpose committee, the advertisement disclosure could include the following: “with support from the Coolidge Club Committee.”
- ❖ The disclosure must reflect information that is accurate as of the date the committee places the order to purchase the advertisement.

Examples

- ❖ A committee primarily formed to support Nancy Nolan for Council District 4 received contributions of \$15,000 from Sunset Bank and \$30,000 from Henry Monroe, the CEO of a local biotech company. When the committee sends out mailers supporting Nolan, the mailer’s “paid for by” disclosure will include the name and address of the committee followed by the words: “with major funding by Henry Monroe and Sunset Bank.”
- ❖ A committee is created to support Proposition A, which would amend some of the City’s land development laws. The committee received contributions of \$45,000 from O’Toole Builders, \$12,000 from the Residential Builders Association, and \$75,000 from Citywide Mortgages. It pays for a billboard to support the ballot measure. The “paid for by” disclosure on the billboard will include the name of the committee followed by the words: “with major funding by Citywide Mortgages and O’Toole Builders.”

For additional information, please contact the Ethics Commission at (619) 533-3476.

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